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What assistive technology is for

Assistive technology can help you do things you can’t do and help you live more independently. For example, screen reading software can help people with low vision to operate a computer more effectively.

Assistive technology also helps you do things more safely. For example, a shower chair might help reduce your risk of falling in the shower. It can also reduce your need for other supports over time.

What working with assistive technology is like

There's a broad range of assistive technology available

Assistive technology can be items like:

- non-slip mats
- adaptable knives and forks
- wheelchairs
- powered adjustable beds
- a communication device controlled with your eyes
- a wheelchair.

We don’t fund all assistive technologies

We only fund assistive technology that’s reasonable and necessary and is an NDIS support.

Our funding decision is based on:

- your disability-specific needs
- your goals
- the evidence that supports it
- whether it’s more appropriately funded by other sources.

We also consider the cost and risk

The decisions we make about assistive technology depend on cost, risk and evidence.

How much it costs

Assistive technology can be:

- low-cost – under $1,500
- mid-cost – from $1,500 to $15,000
- high-cost – more than $15,000.

What is the risk to you

Low-risk assistive technology won't usually cause harm when used in daily life. They're readily available items you choose and use safely with very little help from assistive technology advisors. For example, items like non-slip bathmats or adapted cutlery. You can generally buy low-cost and low-risk assistive technology using your consumables budget.

Learn how to buy low-cost assistive technology.

You'll need to get advice from an assistive technology advisor or assistive technology assessor to help choose the right higher-risk assistive technology products for your needs. We generally consider items regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia as higher-risk.

For example, items like wheelchairs, beds and bed sticks, vehicle modifications, prosthetics or orthotics. We need information about price, evidence and assessments before we can approve high-risk assistive technology. They're usually a stated support in your NDIS plan and something we talk to you about before your plan reassessment.

Learn how to buy mid-cost or high-cost assistive technology.

> **Tip: You can choose to rent instead of buy.**
>
> It might be better to rent assistive technology if your needs are likely to change. Learn how to rent assistive technology.

This page current as of
24 July 2026